



**US Department
Of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

In Reply Refer To:
MC-RIS

Mr. Richard Nichols
Director of Fleet Services
National Van Lines, Inc.
2800 Roosevelt Road
Broadview, IL 60155

Dear Mr. Nichols:

Thank you for your filing on the U.S. DOT Docket Management System on November 12, 2002, requesting the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to remove two crashes from our safety analysis of your operation. Based on the information you provided, the crashes occurred on June 25, 2001 in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey and June 11, 2002 in Yavapai County, Arizona.

I understand your concern when all crashes are factored into our safety analysis. I also realize the additional concern regarding the potential for impacting a carrier's business, since our safety analysis is made public. I would like to explain why we include all crashes in our analysis.

FMCSA has several different types of safety data available for use in determining a carrier's safety status. We attempt to use as many different data sources as possible to determine the full picture of a carrier's safety operation. We report and use the information just as it is provided to us by carriers, Federal and State inspectors, and investigative personnel. Every analysis we perform includes all the information we have on file on a carrier, so that there is no relative disadvantage to any particular carrier.

While it may be desirable to reflect only crashes determined to be "preventable," it is impossible to make that determination from only the information received from State commercial vehicle safety data. Resolving the preventability of a crash is not an exact science and often, without employing extensive investigative resources, the determination can be very subjective.

I realize the potential impact on a carrier's business from posting our safety analysis on the Internet. However, I believe it is important that the public have the ability to look at a carrier's data in relationship to all other carrier data. We have posted warning messages on our web sites such as "The Accident Safety Evaluation Area value represents carrier accident involvement only and is not intended as a means to assign fault" on the A&I site (<http://ai.volpe.dot.gov>) to ensure the public understands that the data serve only as a pointer and not a determinant of a carrier's safety fitness.

Accordingly, FMCSA will make no changes to your safety record.

If you believe that one of the crashes was not reportable, please contact the appropriate State office(s) based on the location of the crash of concern. A listing of the State contacts and phone numbers is enclosed. Once a State office makes a determination on the validity of a challenge to a safety event, FMCSA considers that decision as the final resolution of the challenge. FMCSA cannot change State records without State consent.

If you contact a State office and receive no response to a request within 30 days, you may contact us and we will coordinate with the State to determine the reason for the delay.

We appreciate your continued concern for the safe operation of your company's trucks and drivers.

Sincerely yours,

Terry Shelton
Director, Office of
Information Management

Enclosure

STATE CONTACTS FOR DATA CORRECTION

STATE	CONTACT PHONE
ALASKA	(907) 345-7750
ALABAMA	(334) 242-4395
ARKANSAS	(501) 569-2421
AMERICAN SAMOA	(684) 699-6828
ARIZONA	(602) 223-2413
BRITISH COLUMBIA	(250) 387-6724
CALIFORNIA	(916) 375-2805
COLORADO	(303) 273-1875
CONNECTICUT	(860) 263-5446
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	(202) 727-1555
DELAWARE	(302) 378-5824
FLORIDA	(850) 488-7920
GEORGIA	(678) 413-8504
GUAM	(671) 475-1899
HAWAII	(808) 692-7666
IOWA	(515) 237-3218
IDAHO	(208) 884-7220
ILLINOIS	(217) 785-3032
INDIANA	(317) 615-7401
KANSAS	(785) 296-6800
KENTUCKY	(502) 564-7000
LOUISIANA	(225) 925-6113
MASSACHUSETTS	(978) 369-1004
MARYLAND	(410) 582-5727
MAINE	(207) 624-8939
MICHIGAN	(517) 333-4379
MINNESOTA	(651) 405-6178
MISSOURI	(573) 751-4653
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLAND, SAIPAN	(670) 644-9129
MISSISSIPPI	(601) 961-5465
MONTANA	(406) 444-5447
NORTH CAROLINA	(919) 861-3186
NORTH DAKOTA	(701) 328-1688
NEBRASKA	(402) 471-0105
NEW HAMPSHIRE	(603) 271-3339
NEW JERSEY	(609) 530-8026
NEW MEXICO	(505) 827-0390
NEVADA	(775) 684-4823
NEW YORK	(518) 457-3406
OHIO	(614) 466-0429
OKLAHOMA	(405) 521-6108
OREGON	(503) 378-4601
PENNSYLVANIA	(717) 787-7445
PUERTO RICO	(787) 756-1453

RHODE ISLAND	(401) 444-1183/1140
SOUTH CAROLINA	(803) 896-5509
SOUTH DAKOTA	(605) 773-4578
TENNESSEE	(615) 687-2289
TEXAS	(512) 424-2854
UTAH	(801) 965-4255
VIRGINIA	(804) 378-3489
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	(809) 776-5820
VERMONT	(802) 828-2078
WASHINGTON	(360) 753-0350
WISCONSIN	(608) 266-0305
WEST VIRGINIA	(304) 340-0453
WYOMING	(307) 777-4319
ONTARIO	(905) 704-2465